

**REMARKS**

An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter is attached hereto to cover the cost of any excess claims added by this Amendment. A Petition and Fee for One-Month Extension of Time is also submitted herewith.

A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith.

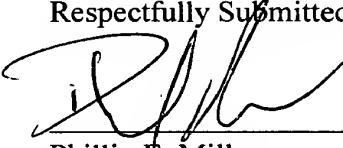
Claims 1-24 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 23-24 have been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-24, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: 2/11/03

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phillip R. Miller  
Reg. No. 46,060

**McGinn & Gibb, PLLC**  
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200  
Vienna, VA 22182-3817  
(703) 761-4100  
**Customer No. 21254**